

DRAFT

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
MARCH 16, 2006

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session at the Marriott Courtyard Lake Union Hotel on March 16, 2006 in Seattle, Washington. Commissioner Brown called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Commission Members

Lynn Brown, Chair
Bill Boyum, DNR, Vice Chair
Jim Peters, Member
Lynn Bahrych, Member
Bob Barker, Member
Tracy Eriksen, Member
Fred Colvin, Member, WACD
Lee Faulconer, Member, AG
Melodie Selby, Member, ECY
Ed Adams, Member, WSU

Commission Staff

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Mary Anderson, Executive Assistant
Stu Trefry, Regional Manager
Tom Salzer, Regional Manager
Ray Ledgerwood, Program Coordinator
Burgandy Kohout, Administrative Assistant
Marvin Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Kristy McGuill, Grants Specialist
Jon Culp, Irrigation Efficiencies Program Manager
Ken Mills, CRM Program Manager
Carol Smith, Habitat & Monitoring Coordinator

Partnerships & Guests

Gus Hughbanks, NRCS
John Larson, WACD Executive Director
Don Larsen, WDFW
Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek CD (telephonically)
Doug Rushton, Thurston CD
John Schuh, Skagit CD

Kim Simpson, WADE
Brandy Reed, King CD
Geoff Reed, King CD
Max Prinsen, King CD
Carolyn Kelly, Skagit CD
Sarah Hemphill, King CD

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Boyum moved to approve the corrected January 19, 2006 Regular Minutes; NASCA CDS Phase II Meeting Travel; and the NACD Pacific/Southwest Region Meeting Travel. Commissioner Selby seconded.

Motion passed.

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ANNUAL TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP

Commissioner Boyum moved to approve \$10,000 in scholarship funding for district participation at the WADE Training. Staff is authorized to set criteria. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioners Boyum and Barker will work with staff in setting the criteria for the scholarships.

LIVESTOCK TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

Commissioner Adams moved to allow use of the \$50,000 for water quality referrals work per recommendation of WSCC staff and direct staff to work with the Department of Agriculture and the WACD Livestock Committee on a recommendation for the \$50,000 set aside for referrals and distribution of the \$120,028 of Livestock Technical Assistance Funding. The recommendation is to be brought to the Commission at the May Meeting. Commissioner Bahrych seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Barker moved to amend the motion to include a hold on the \$120,028 and allow flexibility for the use of the \$50,000 between now and the May Meeting. Commissioner Faulconer seconded.

Amendment passed.

A special meeting will be called if necessary.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

WSCC Staff Recommendation

- The Commission set a limit of one application submission per district.
- The Commission set up a tiered funding system. Districts would only be able to apply for one tier and would only be eligible for an award in that one tier they choose. The tiers that are recommended are the following:
 - Tier 1 = 1 Grant Award @ \$15,000
 - Tier 2 = 2 Grant Awards @ \$11,500 each
 - Tier 3 = 3 Grant Awards @ \$9,000 each
 - Tier 4 = 5 Grant Awards @ \$7,000 each
- That in the application the Commission require the district to list their discretionary funds as of 12/31/05, broken out into encumbered (already committed) and unencumbered (available) funds.
- The Commission evaluate the performance of the district on the FY 2006 Capacity Building Grant

Commissioner Adams moved to accept the staff recommendation for the 2007 Capacity Building Grants for distribution in July 2007. Commissioner Eriksen seconded.

Commissioner Colvin moved to amend the motion to include districts who receive funding under the first year are not eligible for the second year. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Amendment passed.

Commissioner Brown moved to amend the amendment to eliminate the tier system and base the award on merit using a rating system limiting the number of grant awards to a maximum of fifteen total awards. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Amendment passed.

Commissioner Selby moved to amend the amendments to include a cap of \$20,000 for any one grant award. Commissioner Adams seconded.

Amendment passed.

Main Motion as amended reads:

Accept the staff recommendation for the 2007 Capacity Building Grants for distribution in July 2007, with exceptions to eliminate the tier system and base the award on merit using a rating system, limiting the number of grant awards to a maximum of fifteen total awards,

the Districts who receive funding under the first year are not eligible for the second year, and to include a cap of \$20,000 for any one grant award.

Main Motion as amended passed.

IRRIGATION EFFICIENCIES

WSCC Staff Recommendation

The following is a summary of major policy revisions. These revisions to the existing policy are a culmination of twelve months of brainstorming, negotiating, and polishing by agency staff, participating district staff, steering committee members, and interested parties and are agreeable by all.

- Efficiencies and Trust program processing timeline. (This item is a reword of the same item passed May 05) *Some wording changes were necessary to create cohesion with the rest of the policy document.*
- Pre contract reimbursables. (This item was approved at the May 05 meeting in concept form) *Clarification text revision was made to this policy.*
- Five percent redefined. *This policy has been redefined to allow some operational flexibility and program expansion into some areas within the state where the existing 5 percent rule makes participation prohibitive.*
- Cultural Resources. *This policy allows for the performance of the cultural resource inventory to be an eligible cost toward a cost share agreement. It further allows for this expense prior to the landowner entering into the cost share agreement but not before the project being deemed eligible.*
- SEPA processing. *This policy is necessary to help clarify the roles of each agency with regard to the SEPA process.*
- Public Notice for Trust. *This policy is necessary to clarify the financial responsibility and lead will be for this function.*
- Irrigation Water Management for ineligible project assessments. *This policy will allow districts to convert existing data that would be collected on a project prospect to be utilized in the event that that project became ineligible for program cost share funding. The data could be converted into an Irrigation Water Management Plan utilizing Efficiencies Technical Assistance funds for the few man-hours that would be required to perform this conversion.*
- 100 percent funding with State Money. *This policy mirrors one approved for Efficiencies drought response where the program would coordinate 100 percent funding for efficiencies projects. However, this provision would focus its efforts on a State level identified stream(s) where collected science and local information would be used to identify the highest need and the greatest outcome. Landowners would be offered 100 percent funding in exchange for 100 percent of the net water savings in perpetuity.*
- Target Stream Protocol. *This policy is the base protocol that allows for the use of the 100 percent funding mentioned above. Because the responsibility of managing public funds increases with the increased funding amount, the level of public benefit must be managed more closely through a tightened protocol.*
- CID designer eligibility vs. State Engineer. (This item passed May 05, but reworded in this proposal) *Again, wording revisions for clarification were necessary here.*
- Reference Documentation. *This policy transfers this requirement from the old Eligibility Form where it was located prior to the adoption of the Consolidated Application Form to the policy document.*
- Other miscellaneous clarifications. *Too many wording revisions to list here separately. All other changes to the document are highlighted and underlined or struck-through and do not constitute a policy topic as a stand alone.*

Commissioner Eriksen moved to accept the recommended policy revisions to the January 1, 2006 version of the Definitions, Guidelines, and Policies document for the Irrigation Efficiencies Grants Program. Commissioner Selby seconds.

1 **Motion passed.**

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3 **SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENTS**

4 ***Central Region Supervisor Appointments***

5 **Commissioner Brown moved to appoint the following Central Region Supervisors:**

6 **Larry Williams, Central Klickitat Gail Thornton, North Yakima**

7 **Larry M. Cordes, Chelan Co. Terry L. Besel, South Douglas**

8 **Michael E. Kelley, Eastern Klickitat Jon Nishi, South Yakima**

9 **Rex Chamberlain, Moses Lake Bill Schmitt, Underwood**

10 **George Jelmberg, Grant John McLean, Foster Creek**

11 **Commissioner Barker seconded.**

12 **Motion passed.**

13 ***Eastern Region Supervisor Appointments***

14 Commissioner Eriksen will make recommendations for the Ferry and Pomeroy Conservation Districts at
15 the May Meeting.

16 **Commissioner Eriksen moved to appoint the following Eastern Region Supervisors:**

17 **Dennis Swinger, Adams Ralph Seward, Palouse-Rock Lake**

18 **Ron Scheibe, Asotin Co. James S. Fletcher, Pine Creek**

19 **Jim Hanger, Columbia Edward Chvatal, Jr., Walla Walla Co.**

20 **Keith Schafer, Lincoln Co. Tami Stubbs, Whitman**

21 **Chris Heitstuman, Palouse Tom McKern, Stevens Co.**

22 **Commissioner Barker seconded.**

23 **Motion passed.**

24 ***Western Region Supervisor Appointments***

25 **Commissioner Barker moved to appoint the following Western Region Supervisors:**

26 **Dean P. Longrie, Clark Franklin C. Varley, Kitsap**

27 **Chan Noerenberg, Cowlitz Vicki Heater, San Juan Co.**

28 **Gregg Schmitz, Grays Harbor Harry J. Petersen, Thurston**

29 **Roger Short, Jefferson Co. Sabina Gouran, Whatcom**

30 **William M. Knutsen Jr., King Fran Einterz, Whidbey Island**

31 **Commissioner Brown seconded.**

32 **Motion passed.**

33 ***Clallam Conservation District***

34 **Commissioner Barker moved to appoint Ben Smith as Supervisor to the Clallam**
35 **Conservation District. Commissioner Eriksen seconded.**

36 **Motion passed.**

37 ***Snohomish Conservation District***

38 **Commissioner Barker moved to appoint Monte H. Marti as Supervisor to the Snohomish**
39 **Conservation District. Commissioner Brown seconded.**

40 **Motion passed.**

ELECTIONS

Commissioner Boyum moved to announce the following Supervisor elections:

Emmitt Cain, Adams	Albert Roberts, Okanogan
Dan Sangster, Asotin Co.	Keith Kopf, Palouse
Vic Blandine, Central Klickitat	Clinton O’Keefe, Palouse-Rock Lake
Hal Hawley, Chelan Co.	David Gumm, Pine Creek
Donald Hatler, Clallam	Kyle Pearson, Pomeroy
Scott Walz, Clark	Wiard Groeneveld, Snohomish
Byron Seney, Columbia	Jeff Rock, South Douglas
Steven Matsen, Eastern Klickitat	Graham Gamache, South Yakima
Randy Sage, Ferry	Pete Guglielmino, Stevens Co.
Lee Hemmer, Foster Creek	Doug Rushton, Thurston
Chris Herron, Franklin	Todd Kimball, Walla Walla Co.
Lige Christian, Jefferson Co.	Dave Kester, Warden
Jeff Brunson, Kittitas Co.	Edwin J. Stone, Whatcom
Roy Kinsman, Lewis Co.	Everell M. “Duke” Lebaron, Whidbey Island
Eddie Johnson, Lincoln Co.	Dennis Kincaid, Whitman
Maggie Kubo, Moses Lake	
Commissioner Eriksen seconded.	
Motion passed.	

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM NATIONAL PRIORITY AREA FOR SAGE-GROUSE & SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Commissioner Boyum moved to support the Conservation Reserve Program National Priority Area designation for Sage-Grouse and sharp-Tailed Grouse. Commissioner Eriksen seconded.

Motion passed.

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING NEEDS

Commissioner Bahrych moved to support the completion of the district employee technical experience and training needs inventory. Commissioner Selby seconded.

Motion passed.

WSCC 2007-13 STRATEGIC PLAN

Commissioners Barker and Bahrych will provide comments and/or revisions to the revised 2007-13 Strategic Plan document and forward to Debbie Becker, Financial/Grants Program Manager. The final draft will be approved at a special meeting if necessary.

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT (WACD) COMMITTEES

Commissioner Barker and Mark Clark, Executive Director, will work with WACD President and WACD Executive Director to help define the roles and structure for the committees. A proposal will be brought to the next Commission Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brandy Reed, King Conservation District

Technical Experience and Training Needs - Supports the inventory. It is important for staff to know that we are doing our business, consistently and in line with NRCS standards. It also validates the work that is being done.

King CD Strategic Plan - King Conservation District worked on a strategic plan with Stu Trefry and Ray Ledgerwood. Ms. Reed thanked the Commission for the productive process.

CREP – has not worked in King County. Encourage the Commission to consider a recommendation to minimize buffers for small acreage landowners.

COMMISSIONER PROGRAM WORK

The Commissioners agreed to provide individual member leadership and act as liaisons for the following programs:

Fish and Wildlife Commission Representative – Commissioners Eriksen and Bahrych.

Puget Sound – Commissioner Selby.

Urban, Community, and Coastal Resources – Commissioner Bahrych.

CREP Program – Commissioner Barker.

Irrigation Efficiencies Grants Program – Commissioner Selby.

Livestock Program – Commissioners Colvin and Faulconer.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

May 16, 2006 – Field Tour coordinated by the Kittitas County CD and no host Interaction Dinner.

May 17, 2006 – Planning Work Session

Hal Holmes Community Center

209 N. Ruby Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

May 18, 2006 - Regular Commission Meeting

Hal Holmes Community Center

209 N. Ruby Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.